

495 FIGHTER GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

495 Fighter Training Group established 9 Oct 1943
Activated, 26 Oct 1943
Disbanded, 15 Apr 1945
Redesignated 495 Fighter Group
Activated, 8 Mar 2013

STATIONS

Atcham, England, October 26, 1943
Whitchurch, England, February 3, 1945 to April 15, 1945
Shaw AFB, SC, 8 Mar 2013

ASSIGNMENTS

VIII Fighter Command, October 26, 1943
VIII Air Force Composite Command, February 14, 1944
VIII Fighter Command, October 1, 1944
1 Bomb Division, November 29, 1944 to April 15, 1945
Ninth Air Force, 8 Mar 2013

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Robert W. Humphreys, 26 Oct 1943-23 Oct 1944
Lt Col Donald D. Renwick, 28 Oct 1944-8 Jan 1945

Maj Irwin L. Miller, 12 Jan 1945-21 Mar 1945
Col Michael Dean
Col Mark Massaro

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-47
P-38
A-10
F-16

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II
European, African, Middle Eastern Theater

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Officials at Shaw AFB, S.C., last week activated the 495 Fighter Group to oversee the 9th Air Force-affiliated detachments of Active Duty airmen that support Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Command fighter units across the United States. "The significance of today's event is that it marks, for the first time, the transfer of administrative control for these active-associate detachments to one commander," said 9th AF Commander Maj. Gen Lawrence Wells, who presided over the March 8 activation ceremony. There are currently five of these detachments: one in Florida, Missouri, South Carolina, Texas, and Vermont, according to Shaw's March 8 release. Ninth Air Force intends to establish five more of them: one in Alabama, Colorado, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. "My job is to make sure the Active Duty airmen and their families assigned to these locations are taken care of" said LTC Juris Jansons, 495 FG commander, during the ceremony. The group's heritage dates to the 495 Fighter Training Group that operated P-47 during World War II, states the release. 2013

3/11/2013 The 495 Fighter Group stood up during an activation ceremony at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., March 8. The group's activation is part of the Air Force's ongoing initiative to

integrate traditional, active-duty Airmen with Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units to streamline training and resource use. Such integrated units are called active associate units.

The 495 Fighter Group, headquartered here, is responsible for guiding 10 active associate, 9th Air Force-affiliated fighter detachments located at host Guard and Reserve units across the country. These units pair traditional active-duty fighter pilots and aircraft maintainers with their Guard and Reserve counterparts to generate efficiency and cost savings by sharing resources and reducing duplication of efforts.

"My job is to make sure the active-duty Airmen and their families assigned to these locations are taken care of" said Lt. Col. Juris Jansons, who took command of the 495 Fighter Group during the activation ceremony. Prior to the activation ceremony, five of 495 Fighter Group's 10 detachments were already established. Four units flying F-16s in South Carolina, Vermont, Florida and Texas, reported to the 20th Operations Group here. The fifth detachment, flying A-10s in Missouri, reported to the 23rd Operations Group at Moody AFB, Ga.

"The significance of today's event is that it marks, for the first time, the transfer of administrative control for these active associate detachments to one commander - Colonel Jansons," said 9th Air Force commander Maj. Gen Lawrence Wells, who presided over the ceremony. "In the near future, we will double the number of detachments in his command to 10, when we are joined by detachments located in Colorado, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Alabama." Five years ago, Air Force leaders recognized a changing force structure and budget constraints demanded creative ways to generate experienced fighter pilots. Their solution was to leverage the Guard's and Reserve's experience, continuity and assets through an initiative called Total Force Integration.

"The Air Force created the TFI initiative that assigned active-duty service members to Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Units; we did this to make use of the vast experience already resident in those units - for both operational flying missions and maintenance training. History will show that this will prove to be a mutually beneficial relationship." The 495 Fighter Group's legacy dates back to World War II to the 495 Fighter Training Group, established in England on Oct. 9, 1943. Then, the group flew and maintained the P-47 Thunderbolt. After World War II, the 495 Fighter Training Group was disbanded April 15, 1945, due to the end of fighting in the European theater.

"Just like a Phoenix rising from its ashes, today the 495 Fighter Group rises again, proudly displaying its World War II heritage and taking on a mission our Air Force so desperately needs," Wells said. "We are focusing on that next generation of warrior leaders who are going to champion this TFI endeavor. That will be the legacy of this group, said Col. Jansons, a command pilot with more than 2,000 flying hours in the F-16.

Currently established 495 Fighter Group detachments

- Detachment 93, Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla.
- Detachment 134, Burlington International Airport, Vt.
- Detachment 157, McEntire Joint National Guard Base , S.C.
- Detachment 303, Whiteman Air Force Base, Miss.
- Detachment 457, Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas

495 Fighter Group detachments in the process of being created

- Detachment 100, Dannelly Field, Ala.
- Detachment 120, Buckley Air Force Base, Colo.
- Detachment 175, Joe Foss Field, S.D.
- Detachment 176, Dane County Regional Airport, Wis.

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Juris Jansons, new commander of the 495 Fighter Group, speaks to group Airmen and guests during the 495 Fighter Group activation ceremony, Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., March 8, 2013. Jansons has administrative control of more than 600 Airmen assigned to active associate units linked to Air Combat Command. The activation at Shaw marks a historical moment in the Air Force's ongoing initiative to integrate active-duty Airmen, Air Reserve Component and Air National Guard units to streamline training, spending and resource use. These integrated units are called "active associate" units. The 495 Fighter Group will lead its active associate units into the future of Air Force pilot training. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Ashley L. Gardner/Released)

The Active Duty F-16 detachment assigned to the Wisconsin Air National Guard's 115th Fighter Wing was upgraded to squadron status in a ceremony at Truax Field, Wis., last month, officials announced. "We're bringing back the history, we're bringing back the comradery, but we aren't changing how the 115th is organized," 495 Fighter Group Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Joseph Rodriguez said in a Dec. 3 release. The newly reactivated 378th Fighter Squadron still falls under administrative control of the 495 FG at Shaw AFB, S.C. "This structure gives us the best of both possible worlds," he added. The unit, which originally stood up as Det. 176 in February , augments the 115th FW in Madison with four Active Duty pilots and 40 maintainers as part of the Air Force's overall Total Force Integration effort to inject active personnel into each reserve component fighter unit. The 378th FS activated at Truax on Nov. 8. Its heritage unit flew P-47s in the European theater of operations during WWII and inactivated in 1946. 2015

The 495 Fighter Training Group provided forward training on tactics and operations for the European Theater, primarily flying the P-47 Thunderbolt, but also flying a small number of P-38s. Based at RAF Atcham, England, the group exercised command over the 551st and 552nd Fighter Training Squadrons. Preparing pilots for action with Eighth and Ninth Air Forces, the 495 FTG trained many of the pilots for the 4th Fighter Group and other P-47 units during World War II. It moved to RAF Whitchurch, England, in February of 1945, and was disbanded April 15, 1945, due to the end of fighting in the European theater. It received the World War II European, African, and Middle Eastern Theater service streamers.

The 495 Fighter Group was reactivated March 8, 2013, at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., as an active association between active-duty pilots and their guard and reserve counterparts. The activation at Shaw marks a historical moment in the Air Force's ongoing initiative to integrate active-duty Airmen, Air Reserve Component and Air National Guard units to streamline training, spending and resource use. These integrated units are called "active associate" units.

As of today, the 495 Fighter Group has administrative control of more than 500 active-duty Airmen assigned to active associate units linked to Air Combat Command. The number of Airmen assigned to the group could grow to more than 825 over the next two years.

In 2008, Air Force leadership recognized that the changing force structure demanded creative ways to generate experienced fighter pilots. The solution was to capitalize on the experience and assets of the Guard and Reserve. This Total Force Integration initiative became Active Association, whereby Regular Air Force personnel work side-by-side with host Air Reserve Component units in a mutually beneficial relationship.

Total Force Integration is a vital enterprise aimed at maximizing the combined contributions of the Active and Reserve components, while ensuring "right-sizing" of component mix. The 495 leads the implementation of critical TFI initiatives to achieve a more balanced mix of roles, responsibilities, and assets across the Total Force, in order to enhance the ability to provide dominant combat airpower for America.

The 495 Fighter Group will lead its active associate units into the future of Air Force pilot training. The partnerships will allow active-duty, Air National Guard and Air Reserve Component fighter units to share resources, reduce duplications of effort, and ultimately, increase the Air Force's overall air defense capabilities.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

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Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.